Incident 3: Ben Johnson (Seoul, 1988)

The 100-metre final at the Seoul Olympics was billed as the race of the twentieth century because the Olympic champion, Carl Lewis, was being challenged by the "Canadian flying machine", Ben Johnson. Lewis and Johnson were picked as the favourites for winning this glamour event.

Six years earlier, Ben Johnson's coach had told Johnson that if he wanted to be a world-class sprinter, he would have to use steroids. Johnson, who trusted his coach, began using steroids on a regular basis. Just before the Olympic Games, Ben Johnson's doctor had warned Johnson and his coach that he would test positive for drugs at the Games if he continued with his steroid use. Johnson and his coach took no notice.

In the Olympic 100-metre final, Johnson scorched through to win in the incredible time of 9.79 seconds, becoming the fastest human of all time.

But his glory was short-lived. Sixty-two hours after his victory, he tested positive for drug use. He was disqualified and, as a result, lost millions of dollars of sponsorship and product endorsements. He was also suspended from all athletic competition for two years.

After his suspension, Ben Johnson again tried for athletic glory, only to test positive again. His brilliant career was over. Since that time, Ben Johnson has never held down a long-term job and lives on a very small income.

Carl Lewis went on to become one of the most successful Olympic runners ever, winning ten gold medals.